

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of perforating a flat film based on collagen provided on rolls or in the form of sheets, for use as a food wrapping in food industry, comprising ~~the use of~~ using a laser ~~in achieving to form~~ perforations of substantially circular shape with an average ellipticity of less than  $[[0,17]]$  0.17 and the holes being spaced with respect to their nearest ~~neighbours~~ neighbors by 3 mm to 14 mm, thus allowing the escape of air or steam trapped between the film and the food wrapped into said film, and said film still having sufficient mechanical strength and extensibility to be able to stand the food processing steps in the manufacture of cooked ham or in comparable operations under industrial conditions.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method of perforating a flat film based on collagen according to claim 12, comprising the use of a CO<sub>2</sub>-Laser.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of perforating a flat film based on collagen according to claim 12, comprising performing adjustments such that the resulting perforations have an average ellipticity of less than  $[[0,17]]$  0.17.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method of perforating a flat film based on collagen according to claim 12, comprising performing adjustments adjusting the

experimental set-up such that the perforation process provides either perfectly circular perforations having average diameters higher than 300  $\mu\text{m}$  and equal or lower than 800  $\mu\text{m}$  and/or perforations deviating from perfectly circular shape having, in average, longest diameters between more than 300  $\mu\text{m}$  and less than 800  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of perforating a flat film based on collagen according to claim 12, comprising performing adjustments such that the perforation process provides irregularly arranged perforations.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method of perforating a flat film based on collagen according to claim 12, comprising executing said perforation in a continuous way.

Claim 18-20 (canceled).